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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products April 2012

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$3.0 billion (2.7 million** metric tons compared to the preliminary March totals of \$3.0 billion (2.6 million metric tons).

The April change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected an increase primarily in plates in coils and hot rolled sheets. An increase occurred primarily with Russia; a decrease occurred primarily with Japan.

The year to date final statistics through March 2012 showed steel imports of 7.8 million metric tons compared with 5.8 million metric tons through March 2011. The largest commodity increase occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs. The largest country increases occurred primarily with Brazil and Russia; a decrease occurred primarily with Mexico.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details, visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is June 26, 2012.